THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cotton lying with Cotton Growers in Andhra Pradesh

1918. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large quantity of cotton is lying unsold with the farmers in Andhra Pradesh as the mills are not purchasing cotton from them; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to protect the interest of the cotton growers in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) It had been reported that the farmers in Andhra Pradesh were facing difficulty in disposing of their cotton. The Cotton Corporation in close coordination with the State Government has already arranged/purchase of Kapas arriving at the regulated market yards at support prices subject to suitable deductions on account of poor quality. The Corporation has assured the farmer of its presence in the regulated markets through out the season. The Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation has already been released an export quota of 10,000 bales. Besides, Cotton Corporation of India has been purchasing cotton from Andhra Pradesh for Export.

Sale of Cotton Seeds by Cotton Corporation of India

1919. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Branch Manager of the Cotton Corporation of India at Guntur has recently sold 20 to 30 thousand quintals of cotton seeds at the rate of Rs. 99 to Rs. 115 per quintal;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not selling the seeds at the time when the market price of the seeds were Rs. 150 to Rs. 160 per quintal; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) About 38,700 quintals of cotton seed was sold on the 24th June, 1985 at Rs. 99 to Rs. 115 per quintal in open auction in which 17 buyers participated. This quantity included about 10,000 quintals of seed which was sold earlier at higher rates, but was not lifted by the parties and had to be re-sold. Legal action is being taken against the defaulting parties.

(b) Cotton Corporation of India sells cotton seeds continuously but due to market conditions accumulations do occur at times. The price obtained depends on the market situation and cannot be predicted. However, CCI takes measures to get the best possible price.

(c) No further action by Government is called for.

Exploration for new coal mines in Maharashtra

1920. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government have recently urged the Central Government to permit them to explore new coal mines in the State, particularly in Vidarbha region;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have since accorded permission to the State Government; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (c) As per information available no such request has been received from Government of Maharashtra.

However, Geological Survey of India, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd., Department of Mines and Geology of Government of Maharashtra and Mineral Exploration Corporation have carried out detailed exploration in Vidarbha

Region. As a result of these explorations a reserve of 3183 m.t., of coal has been estimated. Based on this data, a number of coal mines have been opened and new ones are being formulated.

Rehabilitation of Tribals evacuated due Mining Activities

1921. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a scheme for the rehabilitation of the tribals who are displaced due to mining activities in big mining complexes in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) No, formal scheme has been formulated for the rehabilitation of the tribals who are displaced due to mining activities in big mining complexes of the Departments of Mines and Coal. However, guidelines for providing employment, payment of compensation and allotment of house-sites etc., have been issued to the public sector companies under their control.

As far as the public sector companies of the Department of Steel are concerned, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Grant of Interim Relief to Central Government Employees

1922. SHRI F. M. KHAN :
SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI:
SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to increase the amount of interim relief to Group 'C' and Group 'D' employees of the Central Government pending finalisation of the report by the Fourth Central Pay Commission; and

(b) whether it is a fact that various unions of the Central Government employees have made a demand for the grant of second interim relief w.e.f. June, 1983; if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The interim relief to the Central Government employees granted recently was based on the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission. The question of increase in the amount of interim relief to the employees can only be considered on any further recommendation of the Fourth Pay Commission.

(b) The staff side of the National Council of JCM suggested for grant of the second instalment of interim relief also from 1-6-1983.

The interim relief granted recently was based on the recommendation of the Fourth Pay Commission. The Pay Commission is appropriate forum for consideration of this suggestion.

Opening of New Sale Centres of NTC in Orissa

1923. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) what are the schemes under Government's consideration for opening new sales centres of National Textiles Corporation in Orissa during the current financial year;

(b) whether the National Textile Corporation makes a market study before introducing textiles for sale in different branches of National Textile Corporation; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) NTC (WBABO) has prepared a proposal to open one showroom each at Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, though no final decision has yet been taken.

(b) and (c) Study is always made on the market conditions before introducing textiles for sale in different retail outlets of NTC. This is based on the feedback from the retail showrooms, dealers/agents.